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SCOTT, J. W. R. *A Free Farmer in a Free State*. Pp. xlii, 235. Price, 6 shillings. London: William Hinemann, 1912.

The prosperity of the Dutch farmer is so pronounced that he "has ceased from grumbling, and . . . admits that he is doing very well." He has been driven to the exertion necessary in attaining this happy state, by "the gracious pinch of foreign competition" which impelled him to shift from wheat and buckwheat to butter, cheese, kitchen vegetables, bulbs and flowers. The necessary change in methods of production was accomplished through coöperative associations, which serve the supervisory and regulative purpose of guilds.

"Last year of all the 958 creameries in the country, 680 were coöperative; likewise 201 cheese factories out of 291. Education in agricultural science has aided; nearly every farmer one meets can talk about phosphoric acid and nitrogen. He can tell you the proportion of fat in milk and he sprays his potatoes."

In five years the annual output of butter has increased by 7000 tons. Fifteen years ago The Netherlands sent about 5,700 tons of bulbs in a twelve-month; the export is now thrice that weight. . . . In the course of several visits to Holland, I have never met any one who disputed the fact that in spite of the rise of food throughout Europe, food is still relatively cheap in Holland, and that more of it is eaten, or that wages are higher and people better housed." The percentage of illiteracy among recruits was 12.3 in 1880, but only 1.4 in 1909; the percentage measuring 5½ feet and over was only 28 in 1880, but 46.56 in 1909.

This is an Englishman's description of rural life in The Netherlands: full of praise, for the most part well deserved, though occasionally one may suspect a purpose of making the best possible case—as when the increase in rural population is shown by comparison with a date so far back as 1830: a more recent starting point would have been more significant.

A. P. WINSTON.

*Pearre, Md.*

SLATER, GILBERT. *The Making of Modern England*. Pp. xi, 308. Price, \$2.50. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1913.

HAYES, CARLTON. *British Social Politics*. Pp. xi, 580. Price, \$1.75. Boston: Ginn and Company, 1913.

The appearance of these two books is particularly opportune. We have been watching with interest British experiments to solve social problems by legislation, and already have become imitators. Several states have established wage boards modeled on those of Great Britain rather than those of Australasia. Insurance against unemployment and against sickness is already being discussed. A large percentage of our workmen's compensation laws are modeled on those of Great Britain, and we have avoided, to a great extent, state insurance as developed in Germany.

Professor Slater's volume is a careful and lucid study of the forces—economic, social, political—that have made England what she is today. Special emphasis is laid on the development of the labor movement and of labor